

Because of the hard work by our Adopt a Highway volunteers, Dakota County highways are much cleaner. Your group could become a part of this great volunteer effort.

Terms and Conditions

The adopting group agrees to:

1. Pick up litter on a segment of county highway as a onetime event or up to three times a year for a minimum of two years and have signs placed honoring your group's efforts. Each segment is up to two miles in length. Certain segments of some highways may not be eligible.
2. All volunteers must review the safety training materials before each clean up to alert participants to the hazards and precautions of working on a highway right-of-way.
3. Pick up litter during favorable weather conditions, during daylight hours only.
4. Provide adequate supervision to all participants who are under 18 years of age. Children under the age of 12 shall not participate unless specifically permitted by Dakota County.
5. Limit the work area between the outer shoulders and the right-of-way boundary. Participants shall not pick up litter in the median unless specifically permitted. Work may not be done on the roadway itself.

6. Call the coordinator after each clean up so that the maintenance crew can be notified to pick up the filled bags.
7. Place the filled trash bags about 10 feet from the shoulder or curb of the road.
8. Return all vests and unused supplies to the Transportation Department when discontinuing the program participation.

Dakota County Transportation Department agrees to:

1. Help your group select a highway to adopt. Roads that have heavy traffic or are inaccessible to pedestrians will not be eligible.
2. Provide up to 15 high visibility vests, trash bags, and safety training materials and instruct on how and where to pick up your supplies.
3. Remove large, heavy, hazardous materials and filled trash bags from the adopted highway.
4. With a two year minimum commitment, fabricate and erect two Adopt A Highway signs, one at each end of the adopted section recognizing your group's efforts.



Transportation Department

Safety Tips

Remember

A highway is a dangerous place to be. Every crew member should possess these qualifications:

- ✓ Sense of responsibility for safety of self and others.
- ✓ At least 12 years of age, unless otherwise permitted.
- ✓ Supervision for workers under age 18.
- ✓ Mentally alert; good common sense.
- ✓ Good physical condition, including sight and hearing.

Plan Ahead

- ✓ Review safety precautions and take them seriously.
- ✓ Assign work teams and leaders before you reach the site. Distribute trash bags beforehand. Estimate the amount of time for your pickup and agree on a meeting place when you're done.
- ✓ Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles along the road. Park vehicles on the shoulder in advance of the area and on the same side of the highway that crews are working.
- ✓ Bring along an adequate first aid kit. Identify the nearest hospital and know how to get there in an emergency.
- ✓ Don't overexert yourself. Bring a long a supply of drinking water and take breaks.

While You Work

- ✓ Work only during daylight hours and good weather conditions.
- ✓ Work one side of the road at a time. Do not cross the road to get to your vehicle.
- ✓ Whenever possible, face oncoming traffic. Stay alert and be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency. Stay with your team.
- ✓ Do not wear headsets that could prevent your hearing traffic or other hazards.
- ✓ Do not crush collected trash to make more room in the bag; broken or jagged objects could cause accidental injuries. Do not put syringes or hypodermic needles in the trash bag as they can easily puncture the bag and cause serious injury. Inform the Transportation Department staff of the location.
- ✓ Do not horse around or do anything to purposely distract drivers.

What to Wear

- ✓ Heavy gloves
- ✓ Heavy leather shoes or boots
- ✓ Light colored clothing; brightly colored cap
- ✓ Long sleeves to prevent sunburn; sunscreen; insect or tick repellent
- ✓ At all times, wear the high visibility vests provided by the Transportation Department.



What to Avoid

- ✓ Stay away from construction sites, mowing activities, open water, bridge overpasses, or retaining walls that could be dangerous for pedestrians.
- ✓ Avoid poison ivy or other noxious weeds. Stay away from recently applied herbicides.
- ✓ Never try to pick up heavy or large materials. Notify the Transportation Department for pickup.
- ✓ Examples of hazardous materials to avoid are abandoned barrels, containers containing chemical or unknown substances, hypodermic needles or other sharp objects, paint, dead animals and weapons. Please notify the Transportation Department for pickup.

Lifespan of Commonly Litter

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| Aluminum Can | 200-500 years |
| Nylon Fabric | 30-40 years |
| Rubber Boot Sole | 50-80 years |
| Wool Clothing | 1-5 years |
| Plastic Bag | 10-20 years |
| Cotton Rag | 1-5 months |
| Orange or Banana Peel | 2-5 weeks |
| Cigarette Butt | 1-5 years |
| Leather | Up to 50 years |
| Glass Bottle | Approx. 1 million years |

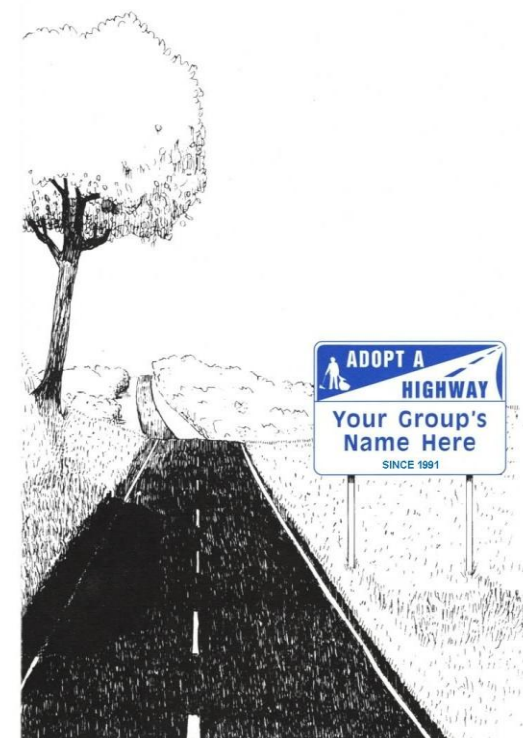
Source: *California Waste Management Bulletin*

Adopt-A-Highway is a public service program staffed by volunteers who pick up litter along Dakota County highways. For more information, contact the Dakota County Transportation Department at (952) 891-7100.

www.co.dakota.mn.us/EnvironmentRoads/Education/AdoptAHighway.htm



Adopt-A-Highway Program



Dakota County Transportation Department

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